

# THE LOUISVILLE HISTORIAN

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### In This Issue:

Jordinelli House	1
Memorial Donations	1
Polio	2
Museum Corner	3
Parade of Homes	4
Homecoming	5
Donations / Membership	6

## The Jordinelli House

Since the Jordinelli house is city property the City of Louisville will be responsible for all outside maintenance activities while the Historical Commission will be responsible for all interior remodeling or refurbishment.

On September 9 a group of commission members met at the house to do a preliminary survey of space usage and required repairs. Since the primary need of the museum is storage and display of artifacts, it was decided to recommend 2 small rooms for storage and the remainder to be for displays. The bathroom should be removed and the kitchen retained with some minor modification. All windows that do not match original

should be replaced with matching ones. Numerous cracks in walls will need to be repaired and will require experienced dry wall contractors. A general clean up of window blinds, screens, and carpet removal. The front porch should be screened in to its original condition. These recommendations were presented to the full commission at the regular September meeting and were approved.

The summer kitchen floor and roof is being repaired and will be moved to a concrete pad adjacent to the house. It is our intent to restore the interior to its original usage.

Eagle Scout Christian L'Orange has offered the

services of his scout troop to assist in the clean-up and removal of materials we do not intend to use. We greatly appreciate the offer and give our heartfelt thanks to Chris and his scouts.

The Commission has received a very generous gift of \$1,000 from the proceeds of the Labor Day 5K run. Again, we can only give our appreciation and heartfelt thanks to those individuals involved in this donation. It will be put to good use.



### Louisville Historical Commission Members

Ellie Cabbage  
Virginia Caranci  
Robert Enrietto  
David Ferguson  
Donna Hauswald  
Alice Hoerner  
Diane Marino  
Patricia Seader  
Aline Steinbaugh  
William Unrau

### Memorial Donations to Museum

#### In Memory of:

Edward Deborski, Julia DiGiallonardo, Albert Porta  
Tammy Brown Robertson, Wayne Newell, Joseph Petrelli,  
Carl Beranek

## Polio

The word, "Polio" struck fear into the lives of many Americans in the epidemic decades of the 1940's and 1950's. Few communities would be spared the ravages of this disease that seemingly struck at random, but all of them, including Louisville, would take steps to curb the menace.

Polio, also known as poliomyelitis and infantile paralysis, is an inflammation of the gray matter of the spinal cord and is caused by a virus which results in serious infection. The disease did not always result in paralysis and, in fact, was contracted by many individuals who didn't even know they were infected, thereby spreading the disease to others. Many would suffer from the "minor illness" while smaller numbers would contract the paralytic, or "true" polio. In the case of the latter the victim would experience a tightness in the neck, back, and legs as well as experienc-

ing muscle weakness and eventual paralysis. How the virus was spread is still up for debate but one theory suggests that it has to do with unsanitary conditions and is found in human feces and is spread through hand-to-hand contact. Before the advent of modern sanitation facilities it is possible that people had built up immunity to the virus, thus contracting only the minor illness. With improved sanitation, individuals began to lose the immunity and became susceptible to the paralytic polio. People became apprehensive about the coming of summer because most polio cases revealed themselves by as much as thirty-five times more in July and August than in the lowest month of April. Because of these "dark" months many communities closed swimming pools and other public facilities. It is theorized that the increase during the summer months was not a result of more social contact amongst individuals but rather that the virus multiplied in a

warm, moist environment.

An interesting approach to curbing the polio epidemic in Louisville, and the country, involved the use of DDT. In August of 1946 the town was sprayed with 1700 gallons of DDT on the recommendation of town health officer and physician Dr. L.F. Cassidy. All places that could have been breeding grounds for flies were sprayed as a precautionary measure. Louisville had no recorded case of polio that year but Boulder had reported three cases, Lafayette three, Broomfield one, Longmont five, and Denver had reached epidemic proportions.

In 1955 Dr. Jonas Salk, after conducting field trials involving 2 million children, formulated a vaccine that has nearly eradicated the devastating virus. Estimates project the complete elimination of polio by 2005.

Source: Edmund Sass, Polio's Legacy: An Oral History

Source: Louisville Times 8/46

### Famous People Who

#### Had Polio:

Alan Alda

Lionel Barrymore

Arthur C. Clarke

Judy Collins

Francis Coppola

F.D. Roosevelt

Dinah Shore

## Let's Tell The World

Louisville Times Editorial August 1946

Louisville is one of the fortunate towns and communities of the nation in its near freedom from flies due to use of sprays during recent years.

Recently while in another town we mentioned Louisville spraying for flies and a resident of that town spoke up, "I wish they would spray this town," and all other residents present were in agreement.

Louisville's annual spraying is one of it's progressive measures that should be advertised by its citizens. It has become almost a matter of course with

us while other communities are still contending with hordes of flies.

Right now a new crop of flies are coming on after the last general spray of the town. Citizens should assume responsibility of carrying on the fight and do some spraying themselves. But the best means of fighting this pest is destroying its breeding places. This entails disposal of garbage in a sanitary manner-burial is one means. Dumping waste water into low places in the yard or into ditches along streets my

develop unsanitary breeding places for flies and germs. Lime and sprays should be used liberally in outdoor toilets and other breeding spots.

Cases of polio are breaking out in Boulder County. While the fly has not been definitely determined as a carrier of this disease, he has been closely tied in with it by scientists.

Presence of flies means an unsanitary condition exists somewhere for flies breed only in filth. Let's swat, spray, and clean up.

## THE MUSEUM CORNER

Carol Gleeson

Museum Coordinator

The fall season brings an increase in the number of tours to the Louisville Historical Museum. During the fall months, second graders from four elementary schools in Louisville tour the museum buildings and enjoy the sites along Main Street. Senior groups, college students, and scout troops also tour the museum and enjoy the historic buildings of Old Town Louisville. The pleasant fall weather encourages Louisville's visitors and residents to tour the museum and to walk along the adjacent streets. Walking Tour Maps are available at the museum and lend to the experience of enjoying the unique history of Louisville. If it has been a few years since your last visit to the museum, I invite you to stop by to see the new exhibits and to pick up a Walking Tour Map.

Historical Commission members are focusing their efforts on fundraising for the renovation of the Jordinelli House. A Holiday Parade of Homes is scheduled for Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, to raise funds for the renovation. Please see the advertisement in this newsletter for more details. Commission members are opening the museum and serving refreshments on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, prior to and following the Louisville Parade of

Lights. They will be selling holiday ornaments, copies of The Louisville Story, Historic Louisville videos, coal sacks, and stationery. Please join us at the Holiday Parade of Homes and at the museum.

The Louisville Historical Society's Annual Membership Meeting was on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Louisville Center for the Arts. Richard Koopman, Resource Planning Manager at Boulder County Parks and Open Space, presented an informative and entertaining program on the Harney-Lastoka property. The program included a slide presentation, songs, and lecture on the history and future of the property. Commission members offered tours of the museum following the program.

The fall season brings new changes to the membership of the Historical Commission. The Commission says good-bye to a long-standing member and hello to two new members. Frank Domenico, who served on the Commission since January 1996, resigned in August. Frank's contributions extended beyond his work on the Commission to numerous hours of organizing historic photograph albums in the museum. Frank will be missed by all of us who worked with him.

The Historical Commission welcomes Donna Hauswald and Diane Marino. Donna has been a

resident of Louisville for seventeen years. She brings her energy, time, and business experience to the Commission. Diane has been a resident of Louisville for twenty years. Her family history includes great-grandparents, grandparents, and a mother who were all born and raised in Louisville. Diane brings her passion for history, enthusiasm, and teaching experience to the Commission. Welcome Donna and Diane!

There are new faces at the Louisville Historical Museum. Dawn Shenton-Schenk and Sally Burlingame are new volunteer staff members who have been contributing their time and talents to the museum. Dawn is researching items in the museum's collection and training to be a docent. Sally is organizing the Holiday Parade of Homes. The museum benefits greatly from their efforts. Thank you, Dawn and Sally, for all your great work!

Special thanks are extended to Betty Buffo and Barb Gould who continue to volunteer their time in exhibiting, interpreting, and cataloging the museum's collection. Ron Buffo, editor of the summer and fall newsletters, is a valued volunteer who continues to share his enthusiasm for history with all of us.

### LOUISVILLE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

1001 Main Street  
Louisville, CO 80027  
303-665-9048  
museum@ci.louisville.co.us

### MUSEUM HOURS

Tues., Wed., & Thurs.  
10AM to 3PM  
First Sat. of Month  
10 a.m.—3 p.m.

### Thanks to New and Re- newing Members!

#### Yearly Members

Mary Claire Collins  
Diane Marino  
Sylvia Kilker

The above names consist of recent memberships and renewals in the Louisville Historical Society during the months of August through mid-October. We apologize for any omissions or misspellings. Please contact the museum with corrections to the above list of names.



## Holiday Parade of Homes



*Saturday*  
*December 7, 2002*  
*10:00 AM - 2:00 PM*

*\$8 purchased in advance*  
*\$10 purchased at the door*



*1045 LaFarge Avenue*



*501 Spruce Street*



*301 Pine Street*



*834 Parkview Street*



*225 Roosevelt Avenue*



*Also from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM,*  
*join us for a holiday boutique and refreshments at the*  
*United Methodist Church, 741 Jefferson Avenue*  
*&*

*Visit the Louisville Historical Museum,*  
*1001 Main Street*



*Tickets available at the following locations:*

Louisville Historical Museum, 1001 Main Street  
Louisville Chamber of Commerce, 901 Main Street  
Eliza's Attic, 900 Main Street  
Birds of Prey Thrift Shop, 1140 Pine Street  
Heritage Bank, 801 Main Street  
Marketplace Bakery, 820 Main Street  
United Methodist Church, 741 Jefferson Avenue

*Sponsored by the*  
*Louisville Historical Commission*



## Homecoming In Louisville

The term "Homecoming" denotes a return to a place dear to us but is particularly significant as a week long event in high school and college. The City of Louisville and the High School would come together in this fall tradition that included the bonfire, snake dance, pep rally, football game, and dance.

One of the most exciting events for Homecoming Week was gathering wood for the bonfire. The fire would be lit the night before the football game, usually on Thursday, after a week of gathering any scrap wood that could be found. An armada of Ford and Chevrolet pick-up trucks would emanate from teenage households searching for the fuel of teen spirit. On the north side of the High School wood of all shapes and sizes would be strategically positioned to achieve a greater structure than the year before and the precipice would be crowned with an old outhouse. On one particular wood hunting expedition an outhouse was secured without the owners consent and the privy had to be returned. Not surprisingly, outhouses emit a peculiar odor when burned. Additionally, an effigy representing the homecoming football opponent would be suspended atop the inferno to stir the blood of fans and players alike. On the night of the great conflagration the ceremonial lighting of the flame was usually given to that of the football team captains after the band played the fight song, "Cheer, Cheer." The Pep Club, (yes, nearly every girl in ninth through twelfth grade was in the Pep Squad, all dressed alike) Cheerleaders, and Poms shouted out roaring chants of encouragement and the football coaches attended and all players, resplendent in their jerseys, formed a bastion of invulnerability. The intense heat combined with the searing pride of the participants made for an experience of a lifetime.

As the fire burned with great intensity the spirit squads would begin the famous "snake dance" with them leading a single file line of all students (there must have been a thousand; well, perhaps one hundred or more) from the school, down Main Street, into restaurants, and even through parked cars whose owners, unfortunately, left them unlocked. The dance came back to the school where the festivities ended for the night. Safety concerns were well taken care of by the Louisville Fire Department.

It didn't take much to fill the LHS gymnasium but a Pep Rally there was a thing of beauty with all of the elements needed to inspire a team to victory. Make no mistake, this was a football event predicated on the necessity of insuring that everything was done to guarantee victory on Friday night. The band took up one end of the gym while the football team sat in chairs at the opposite end. Spirit leaders and the Pep Club repeated their cheers from the night before, coaches gave blustery reassurances, and team captains promised victory. Achieving victory at homecoming was a necessity and, if the opponent was Lafayette, a matter of the greatest importance.

Football games come and go, losses are forgotten, and victories remembered with fond, and sometimes skewed recollections of glory. Louisville Homecoming games had an atmosphere of excitement and anticipation that combined the sights, smells, and actions of gridiron competition. The Louisville community turned out for football games! The stands were full, the expectations great, and pride in the school and community were best shown at this event. At halftime the King and Queen were announced and wasn't it perfect if they also happened to be boyfriend and girlfriend? While not everyone could be from the chosen few of team captains, star quarterbacks, majorette, or spirit leaders, the fact is that the vast number of students participated in a meaningful way.

Most often the Homecoming Dance was held on Saturday night after the Friday game. If you were an underclassman and you had a brother, sister, or friend who could drive you were in luck. Otherwise you and your date walked to Colacci's or the Blue Parrot for dinner and walked to the school for the dance. It was almost unheard of to drive all the way to Boulder for dinner and who would be fearless enough to drive to the great city of Denver? In the "old days" the music was either records (who could forget a stack of 45's) or a live band, and that was really something special. The King, Queen, and attendants were officially crowned, pictures taken and everyone proceeded to dance the night away in a small town gymnasium mirrored in thousands of communities throughout the country but we were confident ours had to be the best.

### Museum Wish List

A special thanks to Historical Society Members, Betty Buffo and Carolyn Conarroe, who recently donated to the museum. Their donations are wonderful additions to the museum's collection. If you would be willing to donate any of the items listed below, please call 303-665-9048 and let us know. All donations to the museum, a non-profit institution, are tax deductible.

Thank you for your support!

**Louisville High School Yearbooks (Cargos)** 1954, 1961, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, & 1972

**Photographs of Louisville High School's graduating classes**

1939, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1961, 1962, and 1964 through 1971

#### DONATIONS

The Louisville Historical Museum has received the following donations during the months of mid-July through mid-October. We sincerely appreciate these recent donations.

Carolyn Conarroe	Photograph of Kate Nawatny
Jim & Laurie Boyer	Medicine bottle from Louisville Drug Co.
Mel Beauprez	1960s band uniform from Louisville High School
Betty Buffo	1951 cheerleading uniform from Louisville High School, 1949 letter sweater from Louisville High School, and 1951 leather baby shoes
Joan Robinson	Mining tools and equipment, trade sign, Atwater-Kent radio, and wooden shipping box
Pat McHugh	RCA Radiola 18

#### MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

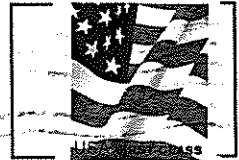
Thank you for your membership in the Louisville Historical Society. Your membership entitles you to a quarterly newsletter and an invitation to the Annual Membership Meeting. Each member contributes to the teaching, collecting, preserving, and interpreting of Louisville's unique history.

Letters with renewal notices will be mailed during the month of November. We hope you will continue your membership in the Louisville Historical Society. Annual membership dues as of November 2002 are as follows:

Individual membership	\$15.00
Family/Group membership	\$25.00
Business membership	\$100.00

Lifetime Memberships will not be offered

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